(Continued from Page 1)

you, if discretion had been shown in that direction, would you regard that as an unwise policy?" Ashford, after some thought, admit-

ted he would

Aiken said he thought the land laws of the Territory are sadly in cut in the field last year. need of revision. It was originally Work for Immigrants. copied from the land laws of New Mr. Ivers briefly reviewed the work would have leased to sugar planters; workers in other occupations. all other cultivated land to home- Fisher asked about the obstruction

ford and Aiken agreed that the home- nast. true no longer, under the amended lic charges.

est. That was disputed.

discussion as apparently the only Ivers was asked by Attorney Olson 8 per cent is the legal rate.

ury rate is, and the latter said he said he did not.

had never tried to use it and there. This ended the morning hearing fore was not an authority on that except for some desultory question-

whether the Secretary intends visiting Maul before returning home. Mr.
Fisher said he hopes to be able to visit Maul and inspect some of the homesteading experiments mentioned homesteading experiments mentioned by the land agent.

In response to a question by Mr. Fisher, Ashford stated his opinion that three years' bona fide residence on homesteads should be sufficient to perfect title in this regard. He also thought that the choice of the nestead system to be followed ould rest with the homesteader in stead of the Governor on the Terri-

The discussion then turned on legal djudication of the Governor's discretion under the present laws, and Ash-ford, while admitting that the Su-Court has held against the mesteader in the Kaiwiki case, said hat this case did not involve the uestion of the Governor's discretion. Attorney Olson thereupon referred to another case, the Graham case, in-volving the Governor's discretion, had een settled in favor of discretionary owers for the Governor, in the Cir cuit Court. Secretary Fisher said this would not necessarily mean fial adjudication of the question.

Richard Ivers Called. After this Richard Ivers of Brewer & Co. was called upon and asked as to his ideas on homesteading. Mr. Ivers declared that it would be a good thing for the sugar trade to have the lands held in smaller holdings, provided that the lands would be really worked, as this would solve the pressing labor problem.

He said he thought the plantations

would be glad to make contracts with

Referring to possible competition of ugar mills for cane raised by home ders, Mr. Ivers said that no mill ould be willing to increase its ca-

ract of some years. He declared that there is actual ition among Hilo mills, and hat he has never heard of an agree ment among mills of this Territory as to the price they would pay for sugar. He also said there is much on as to the sugar profits

per acre here. Secretary Fisher then turned to the uestion of whether there is any "wa-ering" of stock by plantation corporations. Mr. Ivers said that possibly in two or three instances plantations which were unusually and unexpectdly profitable, more might have been put in stock than the actual investnent in the plantations.

Asked as to the relative efficiency of various races, Mr. Ivers said this depended on the occupation, saying that Hawaiians were most efficient as teamsters, combows, etc.; Portuwese at pick and shovel work, and that kind. He said the steady work on the plantations does not appeal to tom was at that time to plant cane on the Hawaiian, and doubted whether the upper lands where there was more the Portuguese working for himself now is as progressive as the Jap-

He declared that "there is no work in the Hawaiian Islands that the man can't do if he chooses to Fisher: What did you use it for?

There is a good deal of senti- Have you ever undertaken to raise. white man can't do if he chooses to ment against a white man working any cane on it?

Asked if a successful homesteading system by whites would result in a system of tenant farmers by Japanese or others, he said he didn't know. White men might stay if they could make a good living.

"Do the plantations want to bring these immigrants here as laborers or as land holders?" asked Mr. Fisher

"In the beginning they might have come as laborers, but I don't think, Mr. Secretary, that you will find tha the plantations are in favor of land-

Mr. Ivers also ventured the opinion that if fifteen years ago the Islands as you call them. were cut up into homesteads, that now either the system would be what it is at present or there would be no there those who have small holdings? sugar industry here. A laugh. was raised when Mr. Ivers said the plan-tations are not in business for their cane on the lands?

health. Secretary Fisher queried Mr. Ivers as to whether or not, if there had been a law against the large private

vate capital has done. Feeling Against Planters. The Secretary then asked Mr. Ivers tion camps below,

if he were conscious of any antag-1 onism on the part of the community to the planting interests. Mr. Ivers said he is not conscious of any such of a few individuals who had lived here a long time and "seen opportunities pass them by."

He also said that the pineapple industry's prosperity depends upon the sugar industry indirectly.

He said three Brewer & Co. plan tations near Hilo last year paid an aggregate of about \$850,000 for cane

Zealand. He would divide the pub- of the Territorial Board of Immigralic lands into three divisions for tion. He said the Russians, while not handling-one, the sugar lands he good plantations laborers, are good

steaders, and the high land, of small of immigrants going away, bringing value and fit only for grazing, he up the matter of immigrants arrested would lease as such to any appli- as witnesses when trying to get away to the Coast. Ivers said this might Fisher then made inquiry into the have been done in one or two in-Territorial laws, affecting the home- stances, and explained briefly the steader who forfeits his rights. Ash raids made on Hawaiian labor in the

steader was paid back the value of Mr. Ivers told how California ob his improvements. Governor Frear, jects to immigration largely because asked if this were so, said it is not, of the fact that laborers have been It was the old law, but he said is brought from Hawaii and become pub-

"I can understand the exasperation Aiken said that 7 and 8 per cent is you feel here when you bring in labor the usual and the legal rate of inter- at considerable expense and someone comes along and takes it away from L. Tenney Peck was called into the you," smiled Secretary Fisher.

banker in the chamber. He said that a little fater if he knew of any homesteads taken up under Governor A general laugh was raised when Frear's administration which have Fisher asked Mr. Peck what the us- since been sold or leased. Mr. Ivers

oint.

Mr. Aiken, on being excused, asked Fisher announced that the hearings

## FISHER HEARING TODAY

Fisher: Well, gentlemen, we will not wait for the Delegate; Mr. Ash-Mr. Aiken, will you take one of

these chairs over here? I understand that you are planning to go away at noon and before you go I thought we had better take advantage of your being here to ask you some questions. What is your full

Aiken: Worth O. Aiken. Fisher: Where do you live? In Makawao, Maui. What is your occupation? Small farming generally. Fisher: When did you first come to the Islands?

Aiken: In 1891. Fisher: And if I may ask, how old were you then? Alken: About 18 Fisher: How soon did you begin to

work for yourself? What do you mean? Fisher: Well I mean independently, of your own accord; tell us how you got into the Government employ.

Alken: I went into the Govern-

ment employ when I first came here. At first I taught school; in fact I practically worked for myself the second day after I landed here. Fisher: When did you first become

what you call a "small farmer?" Alken: Well, like many others, I came here and acquired a wife and family and had to do something to port them, so I started to work for

Fisher: What year was that? Alken: In 1900. Fisher: What did you do, tell us

Started Small Farming. Aiken: Well I had to get a house for myself, so I looked around and found a place that was vacant and

Fisher: Where was this? Aiken: In Makawao. On what island?

Aiken: Maui. How large a tract was Some 300 acres. Did it have a house on

Aiken: Fisher: At the time I bought it, it Aiken: long to an Englishman named von

Fisher: Did he have a title to the land; did you buy it from him? Yes, I bought it from him. What kind of land was it? To what was it best adapted? Aiken: It was originally planted to idle.

apanese in cane hoeing and work of coffee; it was well adapted to it. Parts of it were planted in cane. The cusrainfall; and use the lower lands for dairying purposes.

Fisher: What was it being used for when you bought it?
Aiken: Chiefly for dairying.

Aiken: No. Fisher: Are there other small far-

mers in that vicinity? Aiken: There are quite a number Fisher:

Aiken: Yes sir. How large tracks do they

Well, anywhere from 40 to Aiken: Fisher: Are they what have been called whites here in this discussion, or Hawaiians, or Portuguese, or Ja-

Aiken: Well, we have practically all races there Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Hawaiians and "whites,"

Many Small Holders. Fisher: Among these people are Aiken: Yes, sir. Fisher: Now, do any of them raise

Aiken: No. Fisher: In what kind of farming are they usually engaged? Aiken: Some hundred odd Portuholdings, the government would have developed the industry. Mr. Ivers doubted if the government could is a winery there and they sell their have done it as successfully as pri- grapes to the winery. They are also raising a great mnay vegetables

feeling except possibly on the part or by homsteadings from the Government?

Aiken: Most of them were acquired by purchase; but some were acquired from the Government by homesteading.

Fisher: Had the lands which they acquired ever been used to raise sugar cane? Aiken: No, they had never been

used for that purpose.

Fisher: Was none of this land which is held in small tracts ever used for sugar cane land? Aiken: Well, with the exception of a part of the tract I have and a little below, that is lower down, but not much of ft.

Fisher: Are there large sugar plantations in that vicinity? Aiken: Yes, within a mile of my place there is a plantation camp, but they are for the most part, further down. I believe I am the highest planter in the Territorfy (in eleva-

Fisher: Would this land belonging to these small holders be adapted to raising sugar cane?

Aiken: Yes, certain varieties. Fisher? Is there any reason why the lands to which you have referred could not be used to raise sugar cane, except that the people prefer to raise other crops?

Aiken: No, they are not as well adapted to cane raising, but cane can be raised there. Fisher: The fact that cane is not raised here is not due to any unwill-

ingness on the part of the plantation to take the sugar that is raised? Willing to Take Sugar. Aiken: The plantations are always willing to take any sugar that is

iFsher: When did you become connected with the Government, and in

what capacity? Aiken: In 1901 I was employed in the Tax Department, where I worked for awhile.

Fisher: What duties did you have in this office? Aiken: I was Deputy Tax Asses sor and Collector for the district. Fisher: Then you are thoroughly familitr with the land situation there. Aiken: Yes, sir,

Fisher: Have you been connected with the Government ever since? Aiken: Yes,

Fisher: In what capacity? Aiken: I was Tax Assessor for some 13 years; and in 1905 I was ap-Fisher: What are your duties?

Alken: As Land Agent I super vise the government lands there, chiefly; and after the lands are opened up and cut up into lots for homesteads everything is put in my hands to receive applications; have general charge over the whole

Fisher: How much land has been opened to homesteaders under your supervision, approximately, of course? Aiken: I suppose perhaps 6,000 or

Fisher: Tell us in your own way what your experience has been with the lands that have been opened up. Alken: Well, the first tract opened was in the Nahiku District, about 100 acres of land, in 1897 great expectations were had for this land as coffee land. It seemed very well adapted as coffee land. However there seemed to be no money in the coffee industry, as the cost of planting was too great. But most of the settlers proved up by living there the required time. A majority were Por-tuguese. Some of the lands were taken up by white settlers under Spe cial agreements, which contained no residence clause but required that money be put in improvements. Mos of the lands were acquired by the

settlers and patents issued. Fisher: What happened after they got their patents? Aiken: Well, later the coffee in dustry proved not to be a uccess. The

land then laid idle for some time. Then an attempt was made to star a sugar plantation there. Fisher: Who attempted to start a sugar plantation there?

Plantation Proved Failure. Aiken: It was started among the settlers themselves. But it proved a failure, as the land proved not to be adapted to cane, so the plantation was finally closed down. Since that time the lands have been standing

Fisher: Have they been sold? Alken: Three rubber companies are now leased to two white men, I are planting rubber there now.

Fisher: Who are the people? The holdings are quite

Fisher: Are they people of large or small means? Aiken: People of moderate means. Fisher: Even the rubber experiment is not being carried on by people of large means?

Aiken: No. Well what has happened Aiken: It is running along all

right. The Nahiku Rubber Company is getting along fine and expect to get enough rubber next year to pay Fisher: Are the settlers still liv-

ing on these lands? Aiken: Most of them have moved away; but some are working for the

resulted in getting a population on the grounds? Aiken: No, for the reason that the climatic conditions are not favorable, and also due to the matter of trans-

Fisher: What was the reason for the failure of the coffee plantation? Reasons for Failure. Alken: The chief reason for failcompete with the market.

Fisher: Was the failure due to high cost of picking, or to the lack of pressure? transportation facilities?

Fisher: Do they own their lands? had a good deal to do with the failure. Aiken: They own their own lands. as the road facilities were poor. The Pisher: How did they acquire lands are rather high up in the woods title—by purchase from individuals, and no roads up to the different lots. or by homsteadings from the Govern- Fisher: Now you spoke of the cost

of picking-why did it cost so much to pick the coffee!
Aiken: Well laobr could not be obtained for less than a dollar a day, and picking is a slow process. Fisher: Did the settlers themselves

pick the coffee? Aiken: They worked themselves most of them were Portugueses; but had to hire additional help when the coffee needed to be picked, and the expense was what made it unprofit-

Fisher: Then they subsequently tried sugar cane on these lands and this turned out badly? Aiken: Yes.

Fisher: Was this due to the climatic conditions, or to transportation facilities in getting the cane to the Aiken: The failure was purely due

to the character of the soil and climatic conditions. They never got to the point of getting to a mill.

Fisher. With what other homesteading venture are you acquainted? Aiken: There has been very successful homesteading a little further along, in the nature of opening up small holdings in tare lands in the Hawaiian community. They were given house lots of two or three acres each and from one half to one acre of taro land. So far they have been yery successful and are doing very

Fisher: Now where do these people work; do they confine their laobr egclusively to their own tare patch or do they work in the neighboring plantations?

Work on Roads.

they would have to depend upon liv-ing upon the produce that they raise. Do you think they could make a liv-ing on their own products if this work

were taken away from them?
Aiken: Yes, I think they raise sufficient food for themselves there. A good many go down to the Kahului Railroad Company and work; some go to Hana and work on the planta-

Fisher: How far are these plantations from the homesteads? Aiken: Hans is about 25 miles; some plantations are 40 or 50 miles. Fisher: Do the families stay on

Aiken: They usually stay on the Fisher: This taro land-would be adatped to sugar cane if these pecple were not living on it? Alken: Yes, but not a great deal

of it; but part of it would undoubt-edly grow very good sugar cane. Fisher: Was it government land in the beginning? Alken: Yes sir Fisher: What other experiments

been made in homesteading? Aiken: A number of experiments have been made. A tract was ope up in the early days in Kahakulos. But it was opened up in lots of too large an area. oMst of the people who applied for the lots were Hawaiians. The lands were also too dry. There are some very choice taro lands, however, in Kahakuloa. So that each man received a lot of dry land and in addition got his taro land, It proved an entire failure as far as the upper lands were concerned. One of the requirements was that the lands the Territory? should be fenced. It was an absolute impossibility to fence some of the

Aiken: Yes sir. The taro land

was a part of the lot. Fisher: Have these higher lands ever been susceptible to improvement by anybody? Alken: They are only good for sec-

ond class pasture land. Are they now being used for anything? They are still being used by Hawallans for taro lands; the upper

lands are now under lease. To whom are they leased? They were originally leased in four lots to four Portuguese parties. They

believe. What did they try to do with it? Raise taro. What are the present holders trying to do with it? Raise taro. By combining the whole four lots and being able to

shift back and forth they hope to make something out of it.

are worth.

Another tract of about 1000 acres cations at all. was opened up in the dry section of Fisher: Have the people actually Kula. That tract was cut up into 50 gone on the ground to live? acre lots. I think a mistake was Aiken: Most of them are not re. made at the time, and to be frank, I quired to be there until next April; Fisher: Then that effort has not was very much against opening up the lands were taken up entirely unthe lands, at all.

When were they opened up? In Governor Carter's administra-You say that you were not in favor of it at the time?

Political Pressure. lands and they were only second-class for the building of roads. Now the ing the coffee; with the price they pasture lands. I think it was simply pineapple business is an expensive had to pay for labor they could not yielding to political pressure that the one to get started. It cost about \$125 tract was opened up.

What do you mean by political Well, the influence of quite a num- Aiken: Yes, in addition to plow-Aiken: Well, mostly to high cost ber of people was brought to bear on ing, clearing the lands and the purof pickings, as they didn't get as far the subject, and it was opened up. chase of the plant. which they take to sell in the planta as marketing their coffee. But the As I say, if it had been opened up as Fisher: Does that include his own expense of transportation would have pasture land it would have been bet- labor?

ter. That whole 1,000 acres was practically taken up by four families. How did the four families manage

to take it up in 50 acre lots? I don't think they were bons fide homesteaders, as some were boy from 18 to 21 years of age. Were they all boys and were some of them girls? Some of them were girls.

How were they going to acquire hem-go up and live on the land? The sons and daughters lived there and the old men work the land. Did they finally acquire patent? Yes, they finally acquired patent.

What have they done with it? Well the four tracts are fenced in common and pigs are being raised on the land. It is not a very high grade of land

No, it is second-class pasture land, What about any other experiment? Before Frear's Administration. There are one or two other experi ments. Right here I would explain that those experiments to which I have referred were made before Gov-

then?

ernor Frear's administration. What since that time? Several different times there have been applications for homesteads and the opening up of tracts. In one or two instances I was instrumental in keeping the tracts from being opened up. When to my mind the conditions did not warrant their being opened I spoke very frankly. One tract of and has been opened up recently which lies between Makawao and

Olina. I have had more or less to de

with that Fisher: What kind of land is it? Aiken: So far it has only been used as pasture land. I do not know of anything so far that could be profitably grown upon that tract. That is Aiken: There is no plantation in the reason why I have so far opposed that vicinity; but they get work on it. A ranch corporation has been the roads and trails being built in trying to secure it from the government., I feel that the government Fisher: Suppose this road work should hold on to those lands, and should cease or largely diminish, then some time they can be used for some-

your jurisdiction where the land was adapted to the cultivation of coffee, cane or pineapples? Aiken: The tract which they are now homesteading at Haiku, and

which was opened last year, is suit-Fisher: Tell us about that; how large a tract is that? The Haiku Lands.

Atken: This was originally private land owned by a plantation interest there. At the time of Govern ter's administration I recommended that the government try to secure essession of this tract by exchange been exchanged for it, which would have been of value to the plantation, but as far as the government's purposes were concerned, it is practical alueless. I therefore rec an exchange. However, Govern Carter did not take the matter up and when Governor Frear came into office, and during his first visit to Maul, I brought the matter up to him and he immediately took it up, saw the advantage we could gain by own-ing it, and put the deal through, ac-

quiring the land. Fisher: What had it been used for prior to its acquirement by the gov-Aiken: Just pasture land.

Fisher: What do you think that land is, in fact, adapted to?

Alken: In my opinion that is the best pineapple land in the Territory. Fisher: What has been the history of its use since it was acquired by

Aiken; It was opened up for home steading last year and given out to lands. The Hawaiians cultivated the a settlement association—the Califortaro lands and paid no attention to nia Settlement Association. The chief the upper lands; the consequence was holders of the lands are white setnia. I will say without the least hes-Fisher: The taro lands were in itation that that is the first real cluded in the holdings, were they, and homesteading, in my mind, that has been carried on in the Territory. Fisher: How large are the tracts

Aiken: Approximately 40 acres. Fisher: And how many of them have been taken up?. Aiken: About 24 or 25, I think. Fisher: And are they all white

settlers? Atken: I think so. Fisher: How large a portion them are from the mainland? Aiken: About half of them.

Fisher: How did people on the mainland learn about the lands and become interested in them? Aiken: Well, I think they learned

about them from parties here. Fisher: Then some people here interested themselves in getting settlers from California? Aiken: Yes, I think so. Fisher: Were there any other ap-

plicants for the land other than those Aiken: I had never received any Then you don't think that land is application. There was more or less a matter of a great deal of import talk about opening the lands, and a number of individual Portuguese came I think that the annual rental the to me from time to time and asked government is securing is worth about about the land, but nobody really aphalf as much as the lands themselves plied for it. At that time an official application had to be made at the What are the facts about any other main office here in Honolulu. I had never seen any other official appli-

> der right of purchase lease. Transportation Problem.

Fisher: Now take the transportation facilities there-how are they? Alken: Well, that is one of the things that I have been rather agitating with the governor. The law No, I was not in favor of it. They states that the proceeds derived from were opening them up as agricultural the sale of public lands may be used an acre to get the lands planted. Fisher: He has to put that much money in in addition to his labor?



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strator and Selling Agent Aiken: . Yes, I guess that wofrom the plantation into the ship? clude his own labor, which of Aiken: Yes. is of some value. Under the r Figher: Does the boat go then di purchase lease system we are a rect from there to San Francisco, or posed to receive any money o does the freight have to be transpurchase price for three years.

hippod? fore there is no money coming Aiken: Goes direct to San which to build roads. Fisher: That is the road qu What is the freight from what about the question of stea,

and rail? I think about \$3.00 a to exc freight rate to New York (we shi transportation facilities within most of our freight to New Yor next few months. We have a Mexico) is \$0.60 a hundred in carl harbor, and steamers running lots. from New York and San Francis For the ton, or entirely Kahului; and within the next s hundred? eight months we will have a ral We pay entirely by the hu completed right to this homes

Fisher: What are the rates to homestead government cane Aiken: I don't know; the car There are no cane lands be rates has not been issued. to the Government in Maul, exceed the dock facilities ownersome narrow strips near the months. the railroad company, the Gotains which have been under ment or the steamship company but which leases have not expired.

Have there ever been any att

They are owned by the railroad Pisher: What is being do Will the freight have to be senthose lands? by wire cable or will there be d Aiken: An application has be made by some plantation for a re It will have to be sent out nownewal of the lease. These lands are not large in areas; in fact, they are What does it cost to lighter fresmall tracts.

Would they be appropriate Well, they charge usually at mesteads? rate of \$2.00 to \$2.50 a ton for I It is a mere matter of securing water to the lands. Without water road freight and lighterage. (Continued on Page 7) Then it costs from \$2.00 to \$2

FISHER DENIES LA CK SUPPORT FOR FREAR, RAPID TRANSIT EN DOES PEACE POLICY, NEW ARMY ACT. JO LTS FICERS, FIRE AT SCHOFIEL D BRACKS. Y. M. C. A. READY FOR LE WORK, DR. MARSHALL OPERAD ON SUCCESSFULLY, DEATH OF W. H. STONE,

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